

THIRD COLLEGE EDITION

Webster's New World Dictionary®

OF AMERICAN ENGLISH

VICTORIA NEUFELDT

Editor in Chief

DAVID B. GURALNIK

Editor in Chief Emeritus

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*Dedicated
to David B. Guralnik
lexicographical mentor
and friend*

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period of time, as at a racetrack *4 [Colloq.] a person's name, nickname, or title *vt. **shed** [ME *handien* < OE *handian*] 1 to touch; lift etc. with the hand or hands 2 to manage, operate, or use with the hands or hands; manipulate 3 to manage, control, direct, train, etc. 4 to deal with or treat in a particular way *to hand* a problem tactfully; *b* to deal with successfully or appropriately *c* [Colloq.] to come to terms with psychologically (see *cut-throat hand*) *to* *5 to sell or deal in (a certain commodity) 6 to behave toward; treat *to* to respond or submit to control (the car *handles well*) *7 *to* off the handle [Colloq.] to become suddenly or violently angry or excited — **get a handle on** [Colloq.] to find a means of dealing with; understanding, etc. **SYN** — *handle* implies the possession of sufficient (or a specified degree of) skill in managing or operating with or as with the hands (*to handle a tool* or a problem); *manipulate* suggests skill, dexterity, or craftiness in handling (*to manipulate a machine* or an account); *wield* implies skill and control in handling effectively (*to wield an axe*, *to wield influence*); *ply* suggests great diligence in operating (*to ply an oar*, *to ply one's trade*) **hand-bar** (hand'bal' bär) *n.* 1 [often pl.] a curved or bent metal bar with handles on the ends, for stretching a bicycle, motorcycle, etc. *2 [Colloq.] *n.* mustache with long, curved ends, resembling a hand/bar: in full, *hand-bar mustache* **hand-ber** (hand'ber) *n.* a person or thing that handles; specif., a) a boxer's trainer and second b) a person who trains and manages a horse, dog, etc., in a show or contest **hand-les** (hand'lis) *adj.* 1 not having any hands 2 [Dial.] inept, clumsy, or awkward **hand-made** (hand'mad') *adj.* made by hand, not by machine; made by a process requiring manual skills **hand-maiden** (hand'maid'n) *n.* 1 [Archaic] a woman or girl servant or attendant 2 that which accompanies in a useful but subordinate capacity *law is the handmaiden of justice* Also *hand'maid* **hand-me-down** (hand'mə doun) *n.* [Colloq.] something, esp. an article of clothing, which is used and then passed along to someone else — *adj.* [Colloq.] 1 used; secondhand 2 ready-made and cheap ***hand-off** (hand'of) *n.* Football an offensive maneuver in which a back, esp. the quarterback, hands the ball directly to another back ***hand organ** a barrel organ played by turning a crank by hand ***hand-out** (hand'out) *n.* 1 a gift of food, clothing, etc., as to a beggar 2 a pamphlet, leaflet, etc. handed out as for publicity or information 3 NEWS RELEASE **hand-pick** (hand'pik') *vt.* 1 to pick (fruit or vegetables) by hand 2 to choose with care or for a special purpose, as to gain an advantage — *hand-picked* *adj.* **hand-rail** (hand'rel') *n.* a rail serving as a guard or support to be held by the hand, as along a staircase or ramp **hand-running** (hand'rūn'ing) *adv.* [Colloq. or Dial.] in succession; without break or interruption Also *hand running* **hand-saw** (hand'saw) *n.* a saw held in one hand and operated manually: see *saw*, *file* **hand's-breadth** (hand'sbredth') *n.* HANDBREADTH **hand-sel** (hand'sel, hand'sol) *n.* [ME *handsele* < OE (rare) *handsele*, a giving into hand & ON *handsl*, sealing of a bargain by a handclasp (transl. of L *mancipatio*: see *MANCIPATION*), both < *hand* < IE base of *seal*] 1 a present for good luck, as at the new year or on the launching of a new business 2 [Rare] a) a first payment or first installment b) the first money taken in by a new business or on any day of business 3 the first use or specimen of anything, regarded as a token of what is to follow — *vt.* *-seld* or *-selled*, *-set* or *-settle* [ME *handsele* < ON *handseifa*] 1 to give a hand-sel to 2 to begin or launch with ceremony and gifts 3 to use, do, etc. for the first time ***hand-set** (hand'set') *n.* a telephone mouthpiece, receiver, and dial or push buttons in a single unit, for holding in one hand **hand-shake** (hand'shak') *n.* a gripping and shaking of each other's hand in greeting, farewell, agreement, etc. **hands-off** (hand'sof') *adj.* designating or of a policy, attitude, etc., of not interfering or intervening **hand-some** (hand'səm, hand'-) *adj.* [orig., easily handled, convenient < ME *handsum*: see *HAND* & *SOME*] 1 *o* [Now Rare] moderately large b) large; impressive; considerable [*a handsome sum*] 2 generous; magnanimous; gracious [*a handsome gesture*] 3 good-looking; of pleasing appearance: said esp. of attractiveness that is manly, dignified, or impressive rather than delicate and graceful [*a handsome lad*, *a handsome chair*] — **SYN**. BEAUTIFUL — *hand'somely* *adv.* — *hand-someness* *n.* **hands-on** (handz'ən) *adj.* designating or of an activity, training, etc., in which one participates actively **hand-spike** (hand'spik') *n.* 1 [altered (by assoc. with *SPIKE*) < Du *handspijk* (modern Du *handspaak*) < *hand*, hand + *spæke*, rod, pole] a heavy bar used as a lever, as in turning a capstan 2 *spring* (*-spring*) *n.* a tumbling feat in which the performer turns over in midair with one or both hands touching the ground **hand-stamp** (hand'stamp) *n.* 1 RUBBER STAMP 2 a rubber stamp used to postmark stamps on letters 3 *to* postmark (a stamp) with a handstamp **hand-stand** (hand'stand') *n.* a gymnastic feat of supporting oneself upside down on the hands with the body held vertically **hand-to-hand** (hand'tu hand') *adj.* in close contact; at close quarters: said of fighting **hand-to-mouth** (mouth') *adj.* characterized by the necessity of at, ate, eat, top, ate; in, ice; ice, go, horn, look, tool; oil, out; up, up, *a for unstruck vowel*; *o* in ago, *u* in focus; *u* in Latin *lab'at'* chit; *sh* as in azure (ash'ar) thin, *th* as in rise (rin) **IN ETYMOLOGY** — *untested*; < derived from: > — *From which* ** = Americanism* See inside front and back covers

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